

PAHC NEWS

News and Information about Patterson Army Health Clinic

PAHC News:

is a newsletter highlighting news and information for our beneficiaries both before and after our closure date

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Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of PAHC News! This bi-monthly newsletter has been designed to inform our beneficiaries of what to expect in the next 14 months as PAHC and Fort Monmouth prepare to close in accordance with the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) directive. We realize this is a difficult time as you have several important decisions to make regarding how to obtain your healthcare after PAHC closes. This newsletter is designed to inform you of your options and steps to take now to make a smooth transition.

Commander's Welcome

COL Eric Olins – Commander, PAHC

I welcome you to the first edition of the “PAHC News”. This bi-monthly newsletter will provide you news related to Patterson’s closure and information useful to our beneficiaries both before and after our closure date. We will also take some time each edition to remember the rich history of Patterson Army Health Clinic.

As our final closure date approaches, we will continue to provide quality care and operate all clinical areas and services at their current level as long as our staffing allows. As changes occur, we will post notices in the clinic, publish articles in the post newspaper and use this newsletter as a means to get the word out.

This newsletter is for you, our beneficiaries. We welcome your feedback, input and suggestions on how to make the newsletter better. Contact our patient representative, Michele Steinert at 732-532-1328 or via e-mail at Michele.Steinert@us.army.mil with your ideas and we will incorporate them in future editions.

Again, welcome. I hope you find the pages of the newsletter insightful and informative.

What is TRICARE?

TRICARE is the health care program serving active duty service members, National Guard and Reserve members, retirees, their families, survivors and certain former spouses worldwide. As a major component of the Military Health System, TRICARE brings together the health care resources of the uniformed services and supplements them with networks of civilian health care professionals, institutions, pharmacies and

suppliers to provide access to high-quality health care services while maintaining the capability to support military operations.

To be eligible for TRICARE benefits, you must be registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). TRICARE offers several health plan options to meet the needs of its beneficiary population. This includes TRICARE Prime, TRICARE Standard and

Extra, TRICARE For Life (TFL), TRICARE Reserve Select and the US Family Health Plan. Additionally, TRICARE offers two dental plans and several additional special programs.

In upcoming editions, we will describe the various plans in detail. You can also go to www.tricare.mil, visit your local TRICARE Service Center (there is one in Patterson Clinic, located on the first floor) or call 1-877-TRICARE (874-2273) for more information.

The Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS)

If you are a service member, retiree or dependent, DEERS registration is the key to getting your TRICARE benefits eligibility established. DEERS is a computerized database of military sponsors, families and others worldwide who are entitled under the law to TRICARE benefits. You can verify your DEERS information by contacting your regional TRICARE managed care support contractor, your local TRICARE service center or the nearest uniformed services personnel office (ID card facility). Sponsors or registered family members may make address changes, however, only the sponsor can add or delete a family member from DEERS, and proper documents are required such as a marriage certificate, divorce decree and/or birth certificate. To update your DEERS information:

- Visit your local uniformed services personnel office or contact the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office (DSO) at 1-800-538-9552. You can find the nearest uniformed services personnel office at: <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/>
- Fax address changes to DEERS at 1-831-655-8317
- Mail the address change to the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office, ATTN: COA, 400 Gigling Road, Seaside, CA 93955-6771
- Go online to TRICARE to update your information: <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/deers/>

Preparation for Patterson's Closure

Knowing that Patterson will close, there are some things you can do now to ensure you have a smooth transition to your future care:

- ✓ Obtain a current copy of your medical records. Your health records are the property of the U.S. Government, but you can request a copy of your records anytime. Your copy will include the information in the "hard-copy" file and what is documented electronically. Requests for copies of medical records are submitted at the Medical Records Section at Patterson (1st floor, across from the pharmacy).
- ✓ Pick-up your mammogram files. If you had mammograms taken at Patterson, you need to come to the Radiology Clinic and sign them out. The next facility that performs your mammogram will need these films.
- ✓ Select a new Primary Care Manager (PCM). The TRICARE Service Center at Patterson will help you select a new PCM based on your needs and any special health care requirements you have. Once you select a new PCM, this physician will assume responsibility for managing your care.
- ✓ Learn what TRICARE Program you fall under. TRICARE has multiple programs in which eligible beneficiaries can participate. Each program has unique requirements and associated costs. The TRICARE Service Center will help you sort out which plan you currently use, which plan you are eligible for and help you choose which plan is best for you. You may also call 1-877-TRICARE (874-2273) to get assistance as well.

Important BRAC Dates

1 Jan 2011

Clinic ceases performing Line of Duty (LOD) evaluations on NG and Reserve Soldiers

29 Apr 2011

Last day for retirees and retiree family members to be seen at PAHC (includes all clinics, lab, X-ray and Pharmacy services)

31 May 2011

Last day for active duty and active duty family members to be seen at PAHC (includes all clinics, lab, X-ray and Pharmacy services)

30 Jun 2011

Patterson Army Health Clinic closes

Who was Major General Patterson?



***Major General Robert Urie
Patterson, Medical Corps
Officer and former Army
Surgeon General.***

Major General Robert Urie Patterson, United States Army Medical Corps (1877-1950) served the Army with distinction from 1899-1935. After completing medical studies at McGill University, he graduated with honors from the Army Medical School in 1902. He served in the Philippines where he was awarded two Silver Stars for conspicuous gallantry in action. During World War I, the British, Italian, Czechoslovakian and Serbian governments decorated Major General Patterson for his valor. He also received the Distinguished Service Medal from U.S. Department of Defense. During the postwar years, his assignments included Instructor, U.S. Army War College; General Staff, War Department; Medical Director, U.S. Veteran's Bureau; Executive Officer, Office of the Surgeon General and Commander of the Army and Navy Hospital, Hot Springs, Arkansas. He later served as the Army's twenty-fourth Surgeon General of the Army and retired from military service in 1935. Major General Patterson died on 6 December 1950 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery with his wife and daughter.

PATTERSON ARMY HEALTH CLINIC

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